

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 27:

Accordingly, a structure has been proposed in Japanese Patent Publication Laid-Open No. Hei. 09-042303 paragraph [0015] and [0016], and FIG. 2 ~~(refer to Patent Document 1)~~ for reducing this stress concentration of the small diameter portion 103 between the cut back portion 104b and the large diameter portion 101.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 33.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3:

As shown in FIG. 2, the end portion of the groove portion 14a near to the large diameter portion 11 is formed as a curved portion, namely, a cut back portion 14b, that extends continuously with a second curved portion 13b at a position P1 where the splines and grooves of the splined portion diametrically converge. Accordingly, there is a diameter difference d1 between the diameter of a portion of the groove portion 14a of the splined portion 14, excluding the cut back portion 14b, and the minimum diameter of the end portion of the second curved portion 13b near to the splined portion 14.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9:

Furthermore, a first curved portion 13a as a curved portion; a flat portion 15 that is a straight portion that has a diameter that is constant with respect to the shaft axis; and the second curved portion 13b as a curved portion, are provided in this order from the tapered portion 12 side, so as to extend continuously and be interposed between the small diameter end portion of the tapered portion 12 and the cut back portion 14b. In other words, two curved portions and one straight portion are provided between the cut back portion 14b and

the tapered portion 12. The curved portion 13a is an extension of, and provides a transition for, the tapered portion 12.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13:

In the third embodiment, as shown in FIG. 4, the configuration of the shank 10 between the cut back portion 14b of the splined portion 14 and the small diameter end portion of the tapered portion 12 is different to that of the previous embodiments. Namely, a first curved portion 33a which provides a curved contiguous transition for the tapered portion 12; a second curved portion 33b having a radius of curvature that is different to that of the first curved portion 33a; and a flat portion 35 which is a straight portion having a radius that is constant with respect to the shaft axis, are interposed and extend continuously in this order between the cut back portion 14b and the tapered portion 12, form the tapered portion 12 side. Namely, two curved portions and one straight portion are provided between the cut back portion 14b and the tapered portion 12.